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**CITY OF SAN JOSE
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

For the following statements, respond to each question including how you have addressed (or plan to address) each of the following questions concerning the DEIR and planned EIR for the Coyote Valley Development

(Common names of animals are used, but please feel free to contact me for the scientific names):

How does the DEIR address use of your proposed wildlife “corridor” by any wildlife species? Has the DEIR addressed any monitoring of use of your proposed “corridor” by any wildlife species using cameras, track plates, or scent stations? Has the DEIR taken into consideration other established wildlife corridors for animals that differ from the placement of your corridor (see Tanya Diamond’s comments)? How are habitat preferences and connectivity for Tule Elk, badgers, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and foxes addressed in the DEIR? How has the DEIR addressed the need for a corridor that is wide enough and far away from development so multiple species of wildlife (including mountain lions, deer, Tule Elk and badgers) will travel through, but not get funneled into your development? How does the DEIR address the need for proper fencing around this corridor since it will go directly through a residential development? How does the DEIR address liability associated with placing a “corridor” through a residential development? How does the DEIR address where the fencing will be around this “corridor”? How does the DEIR address keeping humans from interacting with wildlife species that will come through this “corridor”? Where in the DEIR does it address who will monitor the “corridor” indefinitely (after construction is over) to ensure that native plant and animal species are present in the “corridor” as opposed to invasive species?

Does the DEIR address concerns by many biologists that the placement and width for your “corridor” will encourage the funneling of wildlife and especially nuisance wildlife such as raccoons and skunks into your development? How does the DEIR address the mesopredator release hypothesis (Crooks and Soule 1999) which explains that in areas where large predators have been extirpated, medium sized mammals such as raccoons and opossums may undergo “population explosions” sometimes becoming ten times more abundant? How does the DEIR address Soule et al. (1988) who found that there is “a general phenomenon that smaller omnivores and predators undergo population explosions when large, dominant predators are extirpated?” How does the DEIR address and rationalize the removal of natural predators (mountain lions) from the area which will allow an increase of raccoons and coyotes in the area? How does the DEIR address the removal of natural predators of raccoons that will result in an increase in species that are important disease vectors of zoonotic diseases? How does the DEIR address opportunistic mammals (e.g. raccoons) that often carry large parasite loads and zoonotic diseases to humans and domestic animals? Another result of an increase in these medium-sized opportunistic mammals is a documented reduction in bird and small mammal populations. How have you and your planners addressed in the DEIR how increased populations of raccoons in the area will affect populations of burrowing owls?

How has the DEIR addressed raccoon habitat preference? Hoffman and Gottschang (1977) and Broadfoot et al. (2001) concluded in their studies that raccoons prefer wooded areas and raccoons often travel through wooded corridors between residential developments (such as the one you are discussing implementing). Raccoons are opportunistic omnivores that reach their highest densities in highly fragmented landscapes (Andren 1992). Riley et al (1998) found raccoon densities are also higher in urban areas than rural areas. Donovan (1997) found increases in raccoon population density are associated with their distribution across developed and

agricultural areas that are interspersed with forest habitat. Dijak et al (2002) determined that raccoons are more frequently found near agricultural edges and riparian areas. How does the DEIR respond to the previous statements regarding how raccoons travel through wooded corridors in residential areas and how they relate to the wooded corridor you are providing through the center of your residential development? Having a "corridor" that meanders throughout your development (surrounded by agricultural lands and residential development) is by definition a raccoon paradise. How does the DEIR address how the proposed "corridor" will increase raccoon populations and resulting problems? How have you addressed raccoon conflicts with humans in the DEIR? While other species may also cause damage (Conover 2001), raccoons are primary disease vectors for a variety of zoonotic diseases including rabies and roundworm (Broadfoot et al. 2001, Prange and Gehrt 2004). Do you agree that it will be your fault for attracting raccoons and other nuisance wildlife (acting as reservoirs of zoonotic diseases) into your planned development and directly into the backyards of your residents? How does the DEIR address this concern that this nightmare of a "corridor" that you have planned will funnel nuisance and urban wildlife into your development?

You should change the name of your "Wildlife Corridor" to "Raccoon Expressway." The odd unfounded placement of this proposed "corridor" will allow raccoons to travel along this "highway" and stop off for "fast food" available in the form of garbage and garden fruits and vegetables available at local residential homes. Raccoons will stay in "hotels" in the form of residential attics and basements, sleep, make litters of young, and have the litters in the attics and basements. Raccoons will also use the restroom (latrine sites). During their travels through your development they will transmit diseases to humans and domestic wildlife from direct bites and contact with their latrine (toilet) sites.

Human contact with raccoon feces is common in residential developments (Rouserre et al. 2003). Will you live in the development? Will you or your grandchildren be playing in a backyard and accidentally ingest raccoon feces? Raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) is a serious condition and infection with this nematode causes fatal or severe central nervous system disease (Rouserre et al. 2003). Rouserre et al. (2003) found that in suburban areas, raccoons establish latrines on rooftops of garages and houses, in attics and chimneys, on woodpiles, decks, and other areas of high human activity. Rouserre et al. (2003) also found in areas where raccoon densities are high, substantial amounts of feces and *B. procyonis* eggs accumulate at latrines. "Young children are at high risk for infection since they frequently handle and mouth objects contaminated with soil" (Rouserre et al. 2003 sic). How does the DEIR address the previous three sentences about the presence of *B. procyonis* eggs in raccoon latrine sites? What zoonotic diseases do you address that are present in a raccoon latrine (toilet) site in California in the DEIR? Where in the DEIR does it state how much money will you donate to clean up raccoon latrine sites, which will be common on rooftops and in trees (Roussere et al. 2003) in the Coyote Valley Development after your proposed development and implementation of this ridiculous "corridor"? Does the DEIR address the number of rabid animals in Santa Clara County over the past few years and how the impact of increased raccoons and skunks in this area will lead to the increased risk of rabies transmission to humans and domestic animals? How does the DEIR respond to the role of mammalian disease vectors capable of transmitting diseases (address all diseases transmittable to humans and domestic animals (dogs, etc) and humans and especially children (Rouserre et al. 2003) that will be funneled into your development through your "wildlife corridor"?

What education is addressed in the DEIR regarding wildlife surrounding the development at Coyote Valley to reduce incidence of human-wildlife conflicts? What training materials are listed in the DEIR and what do the training materials include? Who will you cite as a reference of human-wildlife conflict avoidance? Where in the DEIR does it discuss additional funding that you will allocate to animal control and CDFG (California Department of Fish and Game) to reduce human-wildlife conflicts to residents in your development? How has the DEIR addressed human-wildlife conflicts? We cannot lose one small child to rabies in Santa Clara County when this disease is preventable- don't you and your planners agree? How does the DEIR address where you will place rabies bait vaccines in this development to allow the vaccination of raccoons and skunks that carry rabies that will be funneled into your development through your flawed corridor? How do the DEIR and your planners address the problem of urban wildlife (defined as raccoons, opossums, skunks here) coming into the development as a result of your "corridor"? How will the DEIR explain how raccoon conflicts will be addressed? How will the DEIR address the increase in the amount of human-wildlife conflicts: property damage, bites, conflicts including the cleanup of dead animals, and the rehabilitation of injured animals? How will you address public education about zoonotic diseases in the DEIR? How did you address in the DEIR how children will be harmed due to the poor planning of your development? How does the DEIR address setting up a response team that will respond to a rabies outbreak? How does the DEIR propose controlling raccoon populations after you funnel all of the raccoons in the area through your planned development and into the backyards of residents with children and little toy poodles? How does the DEIR respond to the previous listed concerns that increased raccoons directed into your proposed development by your raccoon expressway (oh, sorry, your proposed "wildlife corridor") will lead to the spread of zoonotic diseases such as rabies and raccoon roundworm through direct bites and contact with fecal material at raccoon latrine sites?

The close proximity of wildlife near suburban areas leads to human-wildlife encounters and resulting conflicts. When wildlife travels across man-made boundaries onto a parcel of land, animals cause property damage (domestic animals and housing). "Wildlife damage is anything that wildlife does to cause human injuries or illness, loss of money, danger or a reduction in quality of life" (Conover 2001). Wildlife damage takes many forms. How does the DEIR address raccoons that will cause problems such as knocking over garbage cans, eating garden fruits and vegetables, and biting humans and domestic animals (Conover 2001, Crooks 2002)? How does the DEIR define how much money will you supply to animal control agencies that will have to deal with the increased reports of nuisance animals or animals that will enter the development (through the pathway you are providing nuisance animals into the backyards and pockets of your future residents)? How does the DEIR address the additional garbage present as a result of the increased infrastructure in Coyote Valley? How does the DEIR address Barden et al. (1995) and their findings that raccoon-human conflicts often occur at dumpsters with easy raccoon access? Does the DEIR address what kind of dumpsters and trash cans (raccoon proof) will be available to residents since you are essentially dropping off all of the raccoons in the area in their backyard? Does the DEIR quantify the amount of garbage that this development will produce and feed nuisance wildlife? How do you address in the DEIR surplus trash, the availability of pet food, and in/direct feeding by your residents? How does the DEIR address raccoon habitat preference and the raccoon development you are creating? The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) conducted a survey in Canada that found certain animals caused more complaints by the public than others. The raccoon was named as the primary nuisance animal in more than half of jurisdictions studied (in Williams and McKegg 1987). Other surveys have substantiated this result, adding the Virginia opossum and skunk to the list of species

obtaining the highest numbers of complaints by members of the public (in Williams and McKegg 1987). How do the DEIR and your planners plan to address the future presence of raccoons, skunks, coyotes and opossums in Coyote Valley that will occur?

How can you rationalize allowing domestic dogs in this area if you do not address zoonotic diseases such as rabies and canine distemper in your planned development area? Will you allow your residents to have domestic dogs? How does the DEIR address the impact of additional domestic dogs in the area when badgers avoid dogs in urban areas? Does the DEIR address whether domestic dogs will be able to run loose and the avoidance of dogs by badgers? This is very important because badgers are present in the development area and will be a species of special concern. How does the DEIR address control of feral cat populations that will occur in the development area? How does the DEIR propose controlling feral cat populations to reduce the spread of toxoplasmosis, rabies, and FELV to domestic animals?

How does the DEIR address sound levels during development and during development? What will the maximum decibel level be for noise created by increased traffic and during development? What instruments will you use to measure the noise level? What are the responses of California tiger salamanders, mountain lions, badgers, checker spot butterflies, frogs, and CA burrowing owls to sound which will increase as a result of this development? (Does the DEIR define a maximum decibel level for each species?) Who will do the monitoring of sound during development and after development ceases for the next 5 years after development?

Do your planners know there are culverts that humans can walk through in the development area? Please explain why the DEIR states animals are not using these culverts (there are no culverts big enough was your statement I believe) when we have data showing animals are using these culverts? How does the DEIR defend its position when you state that a large animal cannot cross through this culvert if humans can walk through the culvert? Does the DEIR address placing cameras in culverts to monitor wildlife crossings to prove your statement that large animals will not use culverts? Does the DEIR address what type of cameras are addressed in the DEIR will you put up? Does the DEIR address how many times a day will you check the cameras? Does the DEIR address who will check the cameras? Does the DEIR address which culverts you will monitor? Does the DEIR address whether you will you put up animal crossing signs and lower speed limits in areas where wildlife is present (throughout the entire proposed development)? Biologists, CALTRANS, and DOT are doing all of the above already so these are not unreasonable requests.

How can the DEIR not include Tule Elk? They are a reintroduced species in the area that requires a large home range. Please explain why you did not address this important planning species? How much land will you dedicate to Tule Elk in Coyote Valley? How does the DEIR address the finding of a badger burrow during pre-construction surveys? Can the DEIR explain what the proper dimensions of a badger burrow are?

How have you and your staff addressed in the DEIR the presence of increased trash resulting from increased traffic on roads will draw additional wildlife to this area which will result in increased fatalities to humans and wildlife in this area in the form of vehicle accidents and direct contact with rabid animals? How does the DEIR address how much money will you donate to local rehabilitation centers (the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center located in Gilroy) to pay for the additional injuries and displaced wildlife that will occur in this area due to

increased vehicle traffic and infrastructure? Where in the DEIR does it discuss how will you define hotspots of road kill or urban wildlife when you have not done any of these analyses particularly for species that are highly mobile such as deer? Has the DEIR addressed the map of road kill in the planned development area and Santa Clara County that Tanya Diamond and I worked on (see attached map)? You have failed to address how many animals will be killed by cars in the DEIR. Please explain any estimates you have of the number of wildlife that will be killed. How has the DEIR addressed how many people will be injured (property and personal) by hitting wildlife on roads constructed by your development? How does the DEIR explain how you will map out road kill locations in the proposed development to determine where wildlife is being killed, define for: badgers, bobcats, deer, coyotes, pigs, rabbits, skunks, raccoons, opossums? Have you noticed road kill on the sides of roads? How do you think it happened? I'll tell you. Animals get hit and killed by cars. It's a simple idea, but not one you have addressed in the DEIR.

Every year thousands of people are injured when their vehicles collide with a free-ranging animal (Conover 2001). In North America these collisions are most often with deer. Conover (2001) estimated that the number of deer-vehicle collisions in US totaled 726,000 annually based on road-kill estimates and excludes deer that died away from highway after being hit (Conover 2001). Only half of deer-vehicle collisions are reported (Conover 2001) so, annually it is more like 1.5 million collisions. However, if you are being conservative use the 726,000 number even though there are more cars on the road today. The average cost to repair a vehicle after a deer collision was \$1644.00 (Conover 2001). When this outdated amount is multiplied by 726,000 this leads to a total of \$1.2 billion dollars annually spent on deer-vehicle collisions. Over the past year and a half (1.5 years defined as November 2005 to February 2007), Santa Clara County Animal Services picked up 98 road kill deer (this does not account for animals picked up by CALTRANS and Department of Transportation). This leads to an underestimated cost of ~\$160,000 in the county due to animal-vehicle collisions solely with deer, using outdated numbers and does not include animals that died off the highway, were removed by other agencies, etc. Also annually, approximately 29,000 people a year are injured and 200 people lose their lives yearly in deer-automobile accidents in the USA (Conover 2001). How does the DEIR address the economic costs associated with the loss of human lives? How does the DEIR address vehicle-animal collisions (especially with deer) and the money spent on insurance claims, emergency health care, and lost time.

See the following pictures to illustrate statements made above:

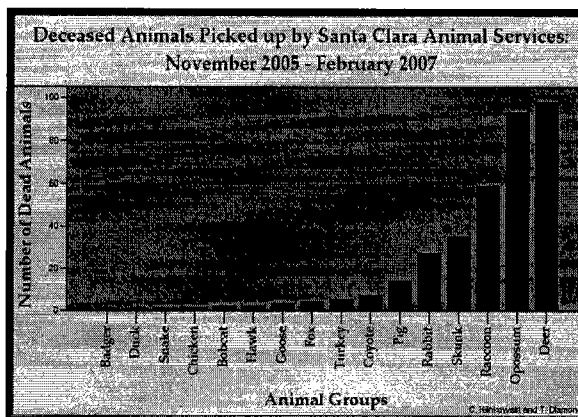


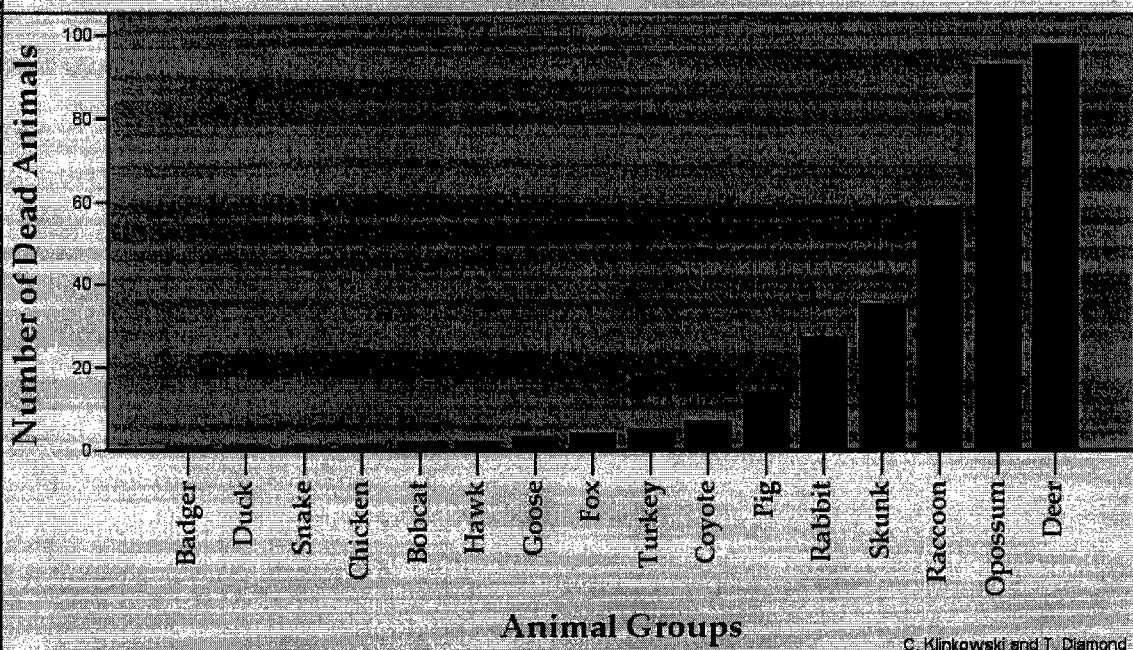
Photo top, above from www.lesstumpfford.com, larger graph next page.

This corridor you have decided to draw on a map with a crayon acts to the detriment of both humans and wildlife in the area. Future injuries to humans and wildlife will rest entirely with you and your planners because your flawed "corridor" design is a nightmare. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

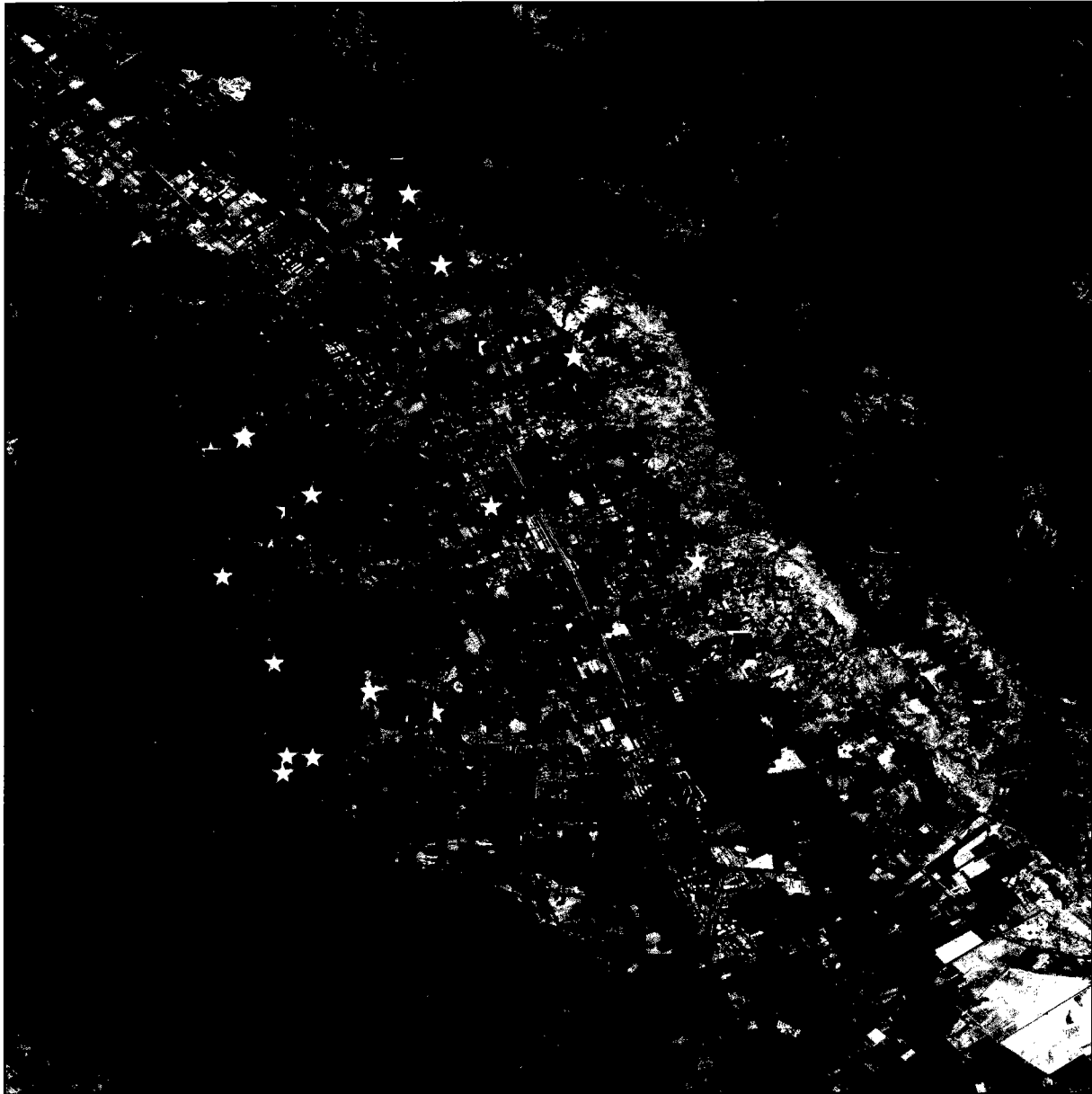
Sincerely,

Christine Klinkowski, Wildlife Biologist
c_klinkowski@hotmail.com

Deceased Animals Picked up by Santa Clara Animal Services: November 2005 - February 2007



Santa Clara County Animal Road Kill Database



Legend

×	Badger	■	Fox	●	Rabbit-LH
■	Bobcat	▲	Goose	●	Rabbit-SH
■	Coyote	▲	Hawk	■	Raccoon
	Deer	●	Jackrabbit	■	Skunk
▲	Duck	■	Opossum	▲	Snake
		■	Pig	▲	Turkey

0 1.5 3 6 Kilometers



Map created by Christine Klinkowski and Tanya Diamond
 Road-kill locations from County of
 Santa Clara Animal Services,
 Roads Layer from U.S. Census T.I.G.E.R.line
 Geographic Projection: NAD27
 Scale: 1:145,038
 Contact information:
 c_klinkowski@hotmail.com, tdseeker@msn.com

Literature

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